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November 1877
 J.P. McDowell vs. Thomas Waller and others.
 J.P. McDowell brings suit against Thomas Waller, Green Sawyers, Marshall Sawyers, Ben Kennedy and George Kennedy. In January 1877 with first, sticks, guns and other weapons they beat McDowell and wounded him so badly that he was confined for a month and was so disabled he could not go about his usual business. He was forced to employ a physician and pay a large sum of money for his services. He is suing for \$5,000.

State vs. J.P. McDowell.

J.P. McDowell makes oath that on yesterday he rode until dark in Davidson County getting up his witnesses so as to be ready for trial today. He started to the court this morning in a two horse ambulance at 25 minutes past six and lives about nine miles from town. Some of his witnesses were present at his house and started with him and he had to go by the houses of others to get them. He had to wait for each one for a few minutes. He had to wait on the road for another one for 15 minutes. He had a load of ten comprising himself and all witnesses except one. He hurried forward as fast as feasible leaving the ambulance at the stable as soon as he arrived in town and hurried right into the courtroom. He had no intention to shirk in his attendance at court nor to delay it. He respectfully urges forfeiture against him be set aside. Oct. 13, 1877

We, Thomas Waller, Green Sawyers, L. M. Sawyers, George Kennedy and Ben Kennedy are bound over to the next term of criminal court in Williamson County on assault and Battery..... April 7, 1877.

George L. Kennedy, Benjamin L. Keneday and Lemuel M. Sawyers swear that Joseph P. McDowell, W. R. McDowell and W. C. Carter on 28 March 1877 at Brentwood did assault by drawing a pistol on George L. Keneday and others. 28 March 1877. R. S. Ballow, J.P.

G. L. Kennedy, M.L. Sawyers, Green Sawyers, Ben. L. Kennedy, Mathew Bond, and Thomas Waller have been arrested on a charge of assault on J.P. McDowell, W. R. McDowell and W. C. Carter. the case set for 31 March 1877.

J.P. McDowell makes oath that Charles Davis, a citizen of Davidson County has been notified to attend this court as a witness. Davis has promised several times to appear but failed to come.

J.P. McDowell said Marshall Sawyers one of the defendants has absconded from the state of Tennessee, or is concealing himself. McDowell asked for an attachment against the estate of Marshall Sawyers to recover the sum of \$5,000 for assaulting, beating and wounding the said J. P. McDowell. Marshall Sawyers has a tract of land bounded by Cinthia McGavock, John Cartwright, Henry Hayes, Andrew Autin, William Clark and another tract of land bounded by Cinthia McGavock, Clark, McDowell, William Ivins and another tract bounded by Lemuel Sawyers, Alexander Ballow, Mose E. Cator, William K. McDowell- all tracts of land are in the 15th. district. July 1877.

We find the defendant Mat Bonds not guilty- Thomas Waller, L.M. Sawyers, Green Sawyers, George Kenedy and Ben Kenedy are found guilty by R. S. Ballow, J.P.- to appear at the next term of criminal court to be held June next. March 29, 1877.

Thomas Waller and Green Sawyer make oath that they cannot go safely to trial at the present time because of the absence of witnesses. By William Tucker they expect to prove that he was present in Brentwood on the day the difficulty occurred. Tucker was at Simpson's store working as a clerk and was star

ing at the door just before the difficulty commenced. William Carter, who says he saw all the difficulty, came into the house and shut the door and he was not out of the house until the difficulty was over and could not have seen what was going on outside the house.

By Thomas Mays, col. he will prove he was present at Brentwood and saw difficulty. Mays saw W. K. McDowell and George Kennedy talking and W. K. Struck Kennedy with his fist the first lick. That J. P. McDowell was at that time standing on the platform just in the rear of his son, W. K., with a large stick in his hand and just as W. K. Struck Kennedy, J. P. raised the stick and made at Kennedy to strike him. Ben Kennedy, the brother of George, who was standing by grabbed a rock and said to him back. J. P. not stopping, Ben Kennedy threw the rock and hit J. P. and J. P. jumped back on the platform and drew a pistol and levelled it at Thomas Waller and snapped the pistol and was in the act of shooting again when Waller knocked him down with a rock and the difficulty ceased. McDowell was carried in the house. George Kennedy and Ben Kennedy were not present at the last term of court nor during the present court. Notices were issued to them in Davidson County where they reside. By the Kennedys they expect to prove they were at Brentwood on the day of the difficulty about a hog and they saw all the difficulty. Nov. 5, 1879

Deposition of Matthew Bond- I went to Brentwood about 8 or 9 o'clock in the morning. I saw J. P. McDowell walk upon the platform in front of J. K. Simpson's grocery. He was standing with William McDowell and William Carter. Will Carter asked George Kennedy something about a hog and then he asked Bill McDowell if he didn't hear him say so and Bill said he did. Arguement- Bill McDowell struck George Kennedy in the face. Till? McDowell attempted to strike George Kennedy over the head. Ben Kennedy told J. P. McDowell two or three times to stand back and then Ben struck J. P. on the breast with a rock. J. P. stepped back and drew his pistol, cocked it and snapped it at Thomas Waller. After he went in the house, he cocked his pistol again and said some of them struck him with a rock and knocked him so that he could not cock it again. Thomas Waller said, "boys, let us go and not have any fuss." Thomas Waller was standing out in the pike in front of the grocery, he had just come up. Ben and George Kennedy were standing on the left of the grocery near the porch. Green and Marshall Sawyers were standing where I was on the right hand side of the porch rather in front of the grocery talking to me. William Carter and W. K. McDowell were standing on the porch near where Ben and George Kennedy were. J. P. walked off the porch over toward new lands and went straight back. When Carter went in the house he didn't come back out. John K. Simpson was a Justice of the Peace at the time and had his office in the store. George Kennedy was the first to use rough language, and Bill McDowell hit him with his hand. George struck Bill afterwards. Till McDowell was knocked down but I don't know who did it. McDowell had a large pistol that looked like a "Navy". January 1880

11 Jan. 1854 - Jack, slave of William Owen assaulted Reuben, the slave of William Sawyer with an axe on the right side of his head and he died instantly.

Aug. 5, 1828 - Joseph C. McDowell, for the natural love and affection for his children James Harvey, William Fanson, Louisa, Sally Harriet, Margaret, Amanda, Martha Jane and John Calvin and also to provide for a child with which his wife is now pregnant (wife Olivia McDowell) and to make suitable provision for his wife, they having mutually agreed to live separate and apart and in full satisfaction of all dowers, rights of dower or claims to which Olivia may be entitled - for the consideration of \$1, - said Joseph gives to Matthew and Robert Johnston a certain tract of land lying in Maury Co., Tenn. containing 192 ac. and a tract of land in Williamson Co. on Little Harpeth containing 163 ac., also 54 acres adjoining above tract - 8 negro slaves, livestock, furniture and farm implements.

1859 - Olly has since married William Sawyer. Her children are: Sally H. who married John Sayer, Louisa who married James Sayer, Margaret who married Gunn both are dead and leaving children Margaret and Angelina, James H. McDowell, John C. McDowell, Joseph P. McDowell. Joseph P. McDowell is the child that she was pregnant with when she and Joseph C. McDowell were separated.

Slave Betty was given to Olly McDowell by Joseph McDowell. She had a son, Reuben, who was killed Jan. 1854.

Deposition of David L. Drake - 8 Sept. 1855. I am acquainted with Olly Sawyer and have been about 22 years. She is about 65 or 70 years old. Knew slave, Reuben, when he was killed. He was killed by a slave of William Owen and Lysander McGavock. Reuben's body was removed from the creek and an inquest held.

Deposition of William Sawyer and his wife - Reuben was killed by Owen's boy Jack and 2 or 3 of McGavock's slaves - Sawyers was told it would be difficult to prove who killed Reuben and suggested he meet with Owen and McGavock and they make a settlement.

Deposition - John P. Waller - Reuben was murdered on Little Harpeth. I was at the inquest. I saw Lysander McGavock there, (now deceased). I was requested by Mr. Sawyer to go there when the negro was found. Joseph P. McDowell came up and said he had an interest in negro and said he was glad he was killed and at the place he was killed. McGavock and Owen agreed to pay Sawyer \$600 for the slave.

Letter - tells that Isaac, slave owned by William Sawyer and Olly had concealed a girl Mariah and married her. She belonged to Mathew Johnston. She had been hidden 11 months and when she was captured he ran from his owner and went to Bedford County. He had vials of poison on him for the purpose of killing his own wife, Thomas J. Road, M. Johnston and others. He was jailed in Bedford Co. The people writing the letter said if he was set at liberty in Tenn he would be prosecuted and hanged. The evidence was conclusive and many citizens wanted to proceed. They want him taken away from the state, not wishing his owners